

**Committee on Public Planting  
Minutes for 8 October 2014**

*Present*

Maggie Booz, Janet Burns, Kathleen Caldara, Gary Chan (CDD), Paula Cortes, David Davis, Michael Hanlon, Kathleen Kelly, David Lefcourt (CA), Jonathan Lewis, Wayne Marshall, Nancy Phillips, Gitte Venicx, Florrie Wescoat, Catherine Woodbury (DPW), Milton Yu (Peter Quinn Architects)

*General:*

- Minutes of 10 September 2014 approved
- Introduction to Gary Chan, new Community Development (CDD) rep
  - shared set of plans under review / coming before the board: 88 Cambridge Park Drive, Harvard Kennedy School expansion, 135 East Street, Discovery Park, 75 New Street (Park 77), and Ames Street Residences; offered to make digital copies of plans available via Arborist
- Presentation of 253 Walden St. Plan by Milton Yu (Peter Quinn Architects)
  - shared landscape plans (designed by Brookline firm)
  - discussion about revising & approving landscape design plan, which requires CPP approval per Footnote K of Zoning Ordinance Article 5
  - discussed species choices, especially importance of shade trees along Walden & Sherman; some recommendation of honey locust (with 30ft spacing), Chinese elm, or similar canopy trees providing green & shade over sidewalk
  - also, a suggestion of replacing boxwood (because of blight) w/ inkberry or Japanese holly
  - final landscape plan must be approved by CPP prior to Certificate of Occupancy (so there's still plenty of time to work things out); agreed to continue the conversation as project moves forward
- David Davis shared a structural soil sample; wants to know how Cambridge arrived at present formula which differs from the one recommended by Nina Bassuk at Cornell; Kathy Watkins has stated intent to appear at future meeting to discuss; Davis also noted a permeable brick spotted by Emily Axelrod on Broad St in Boston, an expensive but innovative solution to street permeability, depending on effectiveness

*Arborist Updates*

- Cambridge Landscape started pruning again this week: getting to various streets missed the last time around.
- Northern Tree will come back in late fall / early winter to prune a handful of locations (Golf Course, Old Burial Ground, Kennedy-Longfellow School)
- re: tree removals, trying to get Davey (EAB contractor) to remove ash trees marked in hearing process, hopefully prior to fall planting season (in order to make space for new plantings)
- planting: Arborist is going tree tagging Oct 20 (including Mass Ave demo block), a little later than usual, but a lot of variables involved in this fall's planting plan
- currently consulting with MIT on Vassar St trees and new construction
- other trees going on hearing (Tuesday, Oct 14):
  - huge, old oak on 35 Linnaean St (biggest left in Cambridge?); 4 leads, 2 with significant cavity, fungus on toe and trunk suggesting decay; Arborist wants to move forward with removing the tree
  - 97 Dudley Street (badly pruned away from wires, nothing left on street side)
  - 9 St Mary Road (significant root decay)
  - 55 Upland Road (decent amount of die-back, significant wounding, fungi)
- ran out of time, so the other items will have to roll over

*Action Items*

- Catherine Woodbury will report back on landscape details re: 75 New Street after meeting at Tobin School on October 22